

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

RESOLUTION

Safe Routes to School

WHEREAS, the health and safety of our children is of highest concern to the citizens of Michigan and the Michigan State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, a lack of physical activity plays a leading role in rising rates of obesity, diabetes and other health problems among children; and

WHEREAS, driving students to school by private vehicle contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, being able to walk or bicycle to school along safe routes offers an opportunity to build healthful physical activity into daily routine and arrive at school ready to learn; and

WHEREAS, only 20-28% of Michigan students who live within six blocks of school walk or bicycle their commute^{*}; and

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School programs are recognized nationally and internationally as effective tools to enable and encourage students to walk and bicycle safely to school; and

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School programs require the formation of multidisciplinary teams in each community to increase awareness of and support for schools and students; and

WHEREAS, having safer routes to and from schools aims to decrease pedestrian and bicycling related injuries, not just for students, but for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School can contribute to a positive connection between schools and neighborhoods by creating beneficial interactions between children and adults; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education hereby commends the Safe Routes to School program overseen by the Michigan Department of Transportation with support from their state and local partners; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education encourages all schools to participate in Safe Routes to School initiatives, gaining the benefits mentioned above and strengthening quality of life for Michigan's students.



Adopted September 12, 2006

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman and
Superintendent of Public Instruction

^{*}from surveys conducted during the pilot phase of Michigan's Safe Routes to School initiative.